

Heavenly Citizenship

Philippians 3:20-21

20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Many, many people have a need of belonging to something that is bigger than themselves. There are many groups that fulfill that need including gangs. Almost all of them require a commitment and demand some sort of support in the form of action.

Belonging to a country and being a citizen is one of the highest value. That is especially true of those who have served in one of the armed services. Philippi was populated by many former Roman soldiers. The Philippians well understood and appreciated citizenship.

Paul uses the concept of citizenship as a bridge to introduce Christianity and its heavenly citizenship to the Philippians.

Paul tells the Philippians, they should realize that their most important citizenship, their spiritual citizenship, is in heaven. Heaven is the real home of believers. Their rights have been secured in heaven, and their interests are being promoted there. Their names are recorded in heaven's book of life. To heaven their prayers ascend and their hopes aspire. Many of their friends in Christ are already enjoying their full inheritance in heaven, and one day all believers will take up permanent residence there.

We, in whom God worked faith, are citizens of heaven. As such, we should not regard this world as a place to put down permanent roots, nor should we fix our hearts on the things of this world or regard them as permanent possessions. We should consider ourselves strangers and pilgrims on earth, and our greatest concern should be with heavenly, spiritual things.

The Apostle includes himself with all true Christians. Since heaven is the Christians' commonwealth, our home, we always see that which is above. In line with that thought is the desired to be free from this sinful flesh.

We are expecting the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior. Once more He will appear as Savior on earth, this time to free His own from this evil world and its sordid life. As verse twenty one points, he will make our sin damaged body into a glorious body, perfect in every way. This sincere yearning for their heavenly citizenship is fulfilled when Christ will come on the Last Day.

Prayer: Thank you dear Lord for bringing us to faith and giving us a citizenship that supercedes everything. Amen.